

A CAREER IN POLITICS—ADVISE AND CONSENT VERSUS PERRY MASON DREAMS

I had become hooked on politics when I read the novel *Advise and Consent* about politics in the U.S. Senate in Washington D.C., which fascinated me. This had been exacerbated by the election of 1960 and John Kennedy's victory. Suddenly I could envision a career in Iowa politics and being elected to office and maybe even the United States Senate. It was dream that would stay with me for several decades and eventually bring me back to Iowa in the middle of my Foreign Service Career to test the waters.

My other dream was that I would become a lawyer. I wanted to go to law school. I was very taken with watching Perry Mason episodes on TV on Saturday night and his

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masterful role in the courtroom and solving cases. As I watched, I said to myself "I'd like to do that, if I could." And so I was a political science major with minors in philosophy, history and economics, but law school was where I felt I was headed all through my four years. I did some debating for a couple of years on the college debate team. I was elected class vice president in my senior year, and did pretty well in school, but I wasn't a fourpoint all A student. I was a kind of B+ / A minus guy, eventually graduating cum laude.